



State of Wisconsin
2017 - 2018 LEGISLATURE

LRB-2276/1
ZDW:ahe

2017 ASSEMBLY BILL 661

November 22, 2017 - Introduced by Representatives BARCA, JARCHOW, BRANDTJEN, FIELDS, KRUG, MURSAU, OHNSTAD, ROHRKASTE and SPIROS, cosponsored by Senators OLSEN and WIRCH. Referred to Committee on Science and Technology.

1 **AN ACT** *to renumber and amend* 30.66 (3) (ar), 30.66 (3) (b) and 30.68 (5); and
2 *to create* 30.50 (4d), 30.66 (3) (ar) 2., 30.66 (3) (b) 2. and 30.68 (5) (b) of the
3 statutes; **relating to:** exemptions to certain boating restrictions for operators
4 of hydro-flight devices and operators of personal watercraft that assist in
5 powering hydro-flight devices.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill creates exemptions to certain boating restrictions for operators of hydro-flight devices and associates watercraft.

Current law prohibits a person from operating a personal watercraft at a speed in excess of slow-no-wake within 200 feet of the shoreline of any lake or within 100 feet of any other boat. A personal watercraft is a motorboat that uses an inboard motor powering a water jet pump or a caged propeller as its primary source of motive power and that is designed to be operated by a person standing on, kneeling on, or sitting astride the watercraft. Slow-no-wake is the speed at which a boat moves as slowly as possible while still maintaining steerage control. Current law also generally prohibits a person from operating any boat within 100 feet of a swimmer.

This bill provides that the restrictions on the operation of a personal watercraft at speeds exceeding slow-no-wake near a shoreline or another boat and the restrictions against operating a boat within 100 feet of a swimmer do not apply to a person operating a hydro-flight device or to a person operating a personal watercraft that is used to assist in powering the hydro-flight device. The bill defines a

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hydro-flight device as a jet powered device, attached by hose to a personal watercraft, that propels a person wearing, holding, or standing on the device into the air by the use of water forced under pressure through the hose.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

1 **SECTION 1.** 30.50 (4d) of the statutes is created to read:

2 30.50 (4d) “Hydro-flight device” means a jet powered device, attached by hose
3 to a personal watercraft, that propels a person wearing, holding, or standing on the
4 device into the air by the use of water forced under pressure through the hose.

5 **SECTION 2.** 30.66 (3) (ar) of the statutes is renumbered 30.66 (3) (ar) 1. and
6 amended to read:

7 30.66 (3) (ar) 1. ~~No~~ Except as provided under subd. 2., no person may operate
8 a personal watercraft at a speed in excess of slow-no-wake within 200 feet of the
9 shoreline of any lake.

10 **SECTION 3.** 30.66 (3) (ar) 2. of the statutes is created to read:

11 30.66 (3) (ar) 2. The prohibition under subd. 1. does not apply to a person
12 operating any of the following:

13 a. A hydro-flight device.

14 b. A personal watercraft that is connected by hose to a hydro-flight device and
15 that is supplying the water needed to operate the hydro-flight device.

16 **SECTION 4.** 30.66 (3) (b) of the statutes is renumbered 30.66 (3) (b) 1. and
17 amended to read:

18 30.66 (3) (b) 1. ~~No~~ Except as provided under subd. 2., no person may operate
19 a personal watercraft at a speed in excess of slow-no-wake within 100 feet of any
20 other boat.

